



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT: Chairperson Pete Palmer; Vice-Chair Denise Pulk; Commissioners Marie Monroe, Mike Ragole, Joel Stempel and Steve Ziomek

STAFF: Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director

GUEST: Jusanne Goodman, Phoenix Rescue Mission

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve September 2, 2020 Veterans Advisory Commission meeting minutes

Commissioner Ziomek recalled a suggestion that a Veterans Day event be held at the Thunderbird Veterans Memorial at Scottsdale Airport.

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONER STEMPEL WAS UNABLE TO VOTE DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Presentation and discussion about programs and outreach for homeless veterans in Scottsdale

Greg Bestgen, Human Services Director, talked about programs available to persons experiencing homelessness in Scottsdale and throughout the Valley. The 2020 Point-In-Time Count identified 102 unsheltered homeless individuals currently living in Scottsdale, ten of

whom identified as veterans. Following the Point-In-Time count, the City's Homeless Outreach Coordinator has created a database of 175 individuals experiencing homelessness in Scottsdale. Each of these individuals has participated in in-depth assessments, which are being used to identify beneficial services for each individual. Director Bestgen noted that the City has received a little under \$3 million in funding due to COVID-19 response that has been utilized to further the City's partnerships with organizations that offer programs to assist homeless individuals.

Mike Lopach, Scottsdale Homeless Outreach Coordinator, outlined ways in which COVID-19 funds are being utilized for outreach to the community, specifically to those experiencing homelessness. Data collected by his team is now being added to the Homeless Management Information System database, a regional system that navigates people towards stability. City of Scottsdale is working directly with Phoenix Rescue Mission to achieve outreach and navigation work within the community, which helps further the City's ability to offer permanent supportive and rapid rehousing vouchers. In August, the City partnered with Community Bridges to offer a temporary hotel shelter program that will run through February. Currently 22 rooms are being rented through the program at the Rodeway Inn on Scottsdale Road. Twelve individuals, including two veterans, have already been assessed and are in the process of receiving housing vouchers.

Mr. Bestgen offered to return at a later date to discuss additional programs beginning in November.

Jusanne Goodman, Phoenix Rescue Mission Director of Community Engagement, reviewed the history of Phoenix Rescue Mission and how they serve veterans among the homeless population in Scottsdale, including benefits available through their residential services program. She noted that in addition to the standard services, veterans are connected to the Community Resource and Referral Center, which is able to connect veterans to an abundance of services.

Chair Palmer asked that Commissioners submit questions to staff and he invited Director Bestgen to return to a future meeting for further discussion.

4. Presentation and discussion on communications plan activities to date

Mr. Corsette gave an update on the progress of the website development. Once the website pages have been completed, the resource will be promoted to the community. The video program is on hold at this time in hopes that the project can be done in person in the near future.

5. Update on the city's plans to commemorate Veterans Day 2020

Mr. Corsette said that plans to commemorate Veterans Day with a virtual program are moving forward. Plans are being coordinated to have the Scottsdale Fire Department Pipe and Drums perform at the Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial. Video interviews, including a presentation from Joan Fudala on Scottsdale's World War II Veterans, is planned for release as part of the Veterans Day celebration. In addition, a call has been sent out to the community asking for submissions for inclusion in a video honoring Scottsdale veterans.

6. Discussion about the Veterans Advisory Commission Annual Report

Chair Palmer proposed that the annual report be made up of the progress the Commission has made in the work plan. He asked that Commissioners submit any ideas or information for inclusion in the report. Mr. Corsette will share work plan accomplishments with Commissioners via email prior to the next meeting.

7. Commission members' reports, updates and suggestions for future agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2020.

8. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER RAGOLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER ZIOMEK SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR PALMER, VICE-CHAIR PULK, COMMISSIONERS MONROE, RAGOLE, STEMPIL, AND ZIOMEK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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